

DEATH THEIR DESERT

President Replies to Senate's
Brownsville Resolution.

SENDS IN SPECIAL MESSAGE

Negro Troops Guilty of Blackest
Crime in Army Annals, Declares
Nation's Chief Executive—Regrets
He Hadn't Power to Order Execu-
tion—Demands Support.The President yesterday sent to the
Senate, in response to a resolution of in-
quiry, a special message on the dismissal
of the negro companies of the Twenty-
fifth Infantry, charged with participating
in the Brownsville (Tex.) foray of last
August.The President said in substance:
An effort has been made to discredit
the fairness of the investigation into the
conduct of these colored troops by point-
ing out that Gen. Garlington is a South-
erner. Precisely the same action would
have been taken had the troops been
white—indeed, the discharge would prob-
ably have been made in more summary
fashion. Gen. Garlington is a native of
South Carolina; Lieut. Col. Lovering is
a native of New Hampshire; Maj. Blockson
is a native of Ohio. As it happens, the
disclosure of the guilt of the troops was
made in the report of the officer who
comes from Ohio, and the efforts of the
officer who comes from South Carolina
were confined to the endeavor to shield
the innocent men of the companies in question.Maj. Blockson's report is most care-
ful, is based upon the testimony of
scores of eyewitnesses—testimony which
conflicted only in nonessential facts, but
which established the essential facts be-
yond chance of successful contradiction.Not only has no successful effort been
made to traverse his findings in any es-
sential particular, but, as a matter of
fact, every trustworthy report from out-
siders amply corroborates them, by far
the best of these outside reports being
that of Gen. A. B. Nettleton.

Account of the Attack.

The attack was made near midnight
on August 13. The following facts as to
this attack are made clear by Maj. Block-
son's investigation, and have not been,
and, in my judgment, cannot be, success-
fully controverted.From nine to fifteen or twenty of the
colored soldiers took part in the attack.
They leaped over the walls from the bar-
racks and hurried through the town.
They shot at whomever they saw moving,
and they shot into houses where they
saw lights. In some of these houses
there were women and children, as the
would-be murderers must have known.
In one house in which there were two
women and five children some ten shots
went through at a height of about four
and one-half feet above the floor, one
putting out the lamp upon the table.The lieutenant of police of the town
heard the firing, and rode toward it. He
met the raiders, who, as he stated, were
about fifteen colored soldiers. They in-
stantly started firing upon him. He
turned and rode off, and they continued
firing upon him until they had killed his
horse. They shot him in the right arm
(it was afterward amputated above the
elbow). A number of bullets were also
fired at two other policemen.The raiders fired several times into a
hotel, some of the shots being aimed at
a guest sitting by a window. They shot
into a saloon, killing the bartender and
wounding another man. At the same
time other raiders fired into another
house in which women and children were
sleeping, two of the shots going through
the mosquito bar over the bed in which
the mistress of the house and her two
children were lying. Several other houses
were struck by bullets.It was at night, and the streets of the
town are poorly lighted, so that none of
the individual raiders were recognized.
The shattered bullets, shells, and clips
of the government rifles, which were
found on the ground, are merely cor-
roborative. So are the bullet holes in the
houses, some of which it appears must
from the direction, have been fired from
the fort just at the moment when the
soldiers left it. Not a bullet hole appears
in any of the structures of the fort.The white officers of the companies were
completely taken by surprise. It was not
until 2 or 3 o'clock in the morning that
any of them became aware of the truth.
There is no question as to the murder
and the attempted murders; there is no
question that some of the soldiers were
guilty thereof; there is no question that
many of their comrades privy to the deed
have combined to shelter the criminals
from justice.So much for the original crime. A
black man never stained the annals of our
army. It has been supplemented by an-
other, only less black, in the shape of a
successful conspiracy of silence for the
purpose of shielding those who took part
in the original conspiracy of murder.By my direction every effort was made
to persuade those innocent of murder
among them to separate themselves from
the guilty by helping bring the criminals
to justice. They were warned that if
they did not take advantage of the offer
they would all be discharged from the
service and forced to enter the employ
of the government. They refused to
profit by the warning. I accordingly
had them discharged.

He Would Do It Again.

If any organization of troops in the
service, white or black, is guilty of sim-
ilar conduct in the future, I shall follow
precisely the same course. Under no
circumstances will I consent to keep in
the service bodies of men who take part
in the circumstances show to be a menace to the
country.Incidentally, I may add that the sol-
diers of longest service and highest posi-
tion who suffered because of the order,
so far from being those who deserve
most sympathy, deserve least, for they
are the very men upon whom we should
be able especially to rely to prevent mur-
der.People have spoken as if this discharge
from the service was a punishment. I
deny emphatically that such is the case,
because as punishment it is utterly in-
adequate. The punishment meted for mur-
derers and murderers such as those
guilty of the Brownsville assault is
death; and a punishment only less se-
vere ought to be meted out to those who
have aided and abetted mutiny and mur-
der and treason by refusing to assist in
their detection. I would that it were
possible for me to have pursued the
guilty men. I regret most keenly that
I have not been able to do so.Any assertion that these men were dealt
with harshly because they were colored
men is utterly without foundation. Of-
ficers or enlisted men, white men or col-
ored men, who were guilty of such con-
duct would have been treated in precisely
the same way.There are plenty of precedents. I
call your attention to the memoranda
from the military secretary's office of
the War Department, and a mem-
orandum from the military secretary in-
closing a piece by ex-Corporal Hesse, now
chief of division in the military secre-
tary's office, together with a letter from
District Attorney James Wilkinson, of

DAILY FASHION HINT.



Modish Frock in Striped Velvet.

Gray and white striped velvet, a fabric that fashions the smartest of
the winter walking or street toilettes, is used to model the pretty frock illus-
trated. A jumper blouse is effectively trimmed with black satin piped tabs that
outline a well-cut round yoke effect, finished with a gray lace chemisette. The
tabs are also used to emphasize the circular cut of the skirt at the hips, and top
the band of velvet used to stiffen, with the aid of a little haircloth, the hem of
a wide, sweeping skirt.New Orleans. The district attorney's letter
recites several cases in which white
United States soldiers, being arrested for
crime, were tried, and every soldier and
employee of the regiment, or in the fort at
which the soldier was stationed, volun-
teered all they knew, both before and at
the trial, so as to secure justice.In one case the soldier was acquitted.
In another case the soldier was convicted
of murder.During the civil war numerous precedents
for the action taken by me oc-
curred in the shape of the summary dis-
charge of regiments or companies be-
cause of misconduct on the part of some
or all of their members.The Sixth Ohio was summarily dis-
charged, on the ground that the regiment
was disorganized, mutinous, and worth-
less.The Eleventh New York was dis-
charged by reason of general demoraliza-
tion and numerous desertions.Three companies of the Fifth Missouri
Cavalry and one company of the Fourth
Missouri Cavalry were mustered out of
the service of the United States without
trial by court-martial by reason of mu-
tinous conduct and disaffection of the pa-
triotry of the members of these companies
(an almost exact parallel to my action).Another Missouri regiment was must-
ered out of service because it was in a
state bordering closely on mutiny.Other examples, including New Jersey,
Maryland, and other organizations, are
given in the enclosed papers.

What Grant Did.

I call your attention to the special field
order of Brig. Gen. U. S. Grant, issued
from the headquarters of the Thirteenth
Army Corps on November 16, 1862, in re-
ference to the Twentieth Illinois. Members
of this regiment had broken into a store
and taken goods to the value of some
\$12,000, and the rest of the regiment, in-
cluding especially two officers, failed, in
the words of Gen. Grant, to "exercise
their authority to ferret out the men guilty
of the offenses." Gen. Grant accordingly
mustered out of the service of the
United States the two officers in question,
and assessed the sum of \$12,000 against
the said regiment as a whole, officers and men
to be assessed pro rata on their pay.In its essence this action is precisely
similar to that I have taken.It appears that certain members of the
regiment lynched a bartender who had
killed one of their soldiers. Being un-
able to discover the culprits, Col. Robert
E. Lee, then in command of the Depart-
ment of Texas, ordered the company to
be disbanded and the members trans-
ferred to other companies and discharged
at the end of their enlistment, without
trial. Owing to the outbreak of the civil
war, and the consequent loss of records
and confusion, it is not possible to
say what finally became of this case.When Gen. Lee was in command of the
Army of Northern Virginia he issued an
order in October, 1864, disbarring a cer-
tain battalion for cowardly conduct.The official record shows that during
the fiscal year ending June 30 last, such
discharges were issued by the War De-
partment without trial by court-martial
in the case of 352 enlisted men of the
regular army, 35 of them being on ac-
count of "having become disqualified for
service through own misconduct."

Discusses Race Question.

I wish to say something from the
standpoint of the race question. In my
message at the opening of the Congress
I discussed the matter of lynching. In
it I gave utterance to the abhorrence
which all decent citizens should feel for
the deeds of the men (in almost all cases
white men) who take part in lynchings,
and at the same time I condemned, as
all decent men of any color should con-
demn, the action of those colored men
who actively or passively shield the col-
ored criminal from the law.In the case of these companies we have
to deal with men who in the first place
were guilty of what was practically the
worst possible form of lynching.It is of the utmost importance to all
of us that we shall deal with each
man on his merits as a man, and not
deal with him merely as a member of a
given race; that we shall judge each
man by his conduct and not his color.
This is important for the white man, and
it is far more important for the colored
man.More evil and sinister counsel never
was given to any people than that given
to colored men by those advisers, wheth-
er black or white, who, by apology and
condonation, encourage conduct such as
that of the three companies in question.
Throughout my term of service in thePresidency I have acted on the principle
[taking every man at the character value
that Mr. Roosevelt put upon him] thus
advocated. In the North, as in the
South, I have appointed colored men
of high character to office, utterly dis-
regarding the protests of those who would
have kept them out of office because they
were colored men.I have striven to break up peonage; I
have upheld the hands of those who,
like Judge Jones and Judge Spear, have
warmed in unshrinking terms the crime
of lynching perpetrated by white men, and
I should take instant advantage of any
opportunity whereby I could bring to
justice a mob of lynchers.In precisely the same spirit I have
now acted with reference to these col-
ored men who have been guilty of a
black and dastardly crime. In one policy,
as in the other, I do not claim as a fa-
vor, but I challenge as a right, the sup-
port of every citizen of this country,
whatever his color, provided only he has
in him the spirit of genuine and far-
sighted patriotism.

Reports of Officers.

Maj. Penrose, in his report, states the
facts of the shooting, and says: "I sent
Capt. Lyon, with his company (D) to
look for the two men on pass, fearing
something might have happened to them."
Capt. Lyon was gone about three
quarters of an hour, and returned with-
out finding the men. Returning with
Capt. Lyon was the mayor of Brown-
ville, Dr. Combe, who reported that one
civilian had been killed and the chief
of police badly wounded, and claimed the
killing and wounding had been done by
soldiers.The mayor again called upon me
about 10 p. m. and informed me a few
empty cartridge cases and used clips for
our Springfield rifle had been found in
the streets, and later in the morning told me
there had been picked up between 75 and
100 empty cases and used clips, as well
as a few cartridges that had not been
fired. Some of these I examined, and
there is no doubt they are those manu-
factured by our ordnance department and
issued to troops."Were it not for the damaging evidence
of the empty shells and used clips, I
should be of the firm belief that none of
my men was in any way connected with
the crime."Maj. Blockson, in his report, gives
the following account of the affair:
"From the evidence obtainable I believe
the first shots were fired between B com-
pany barracks and the wall separating
post from town. A number were fired
into the air for the purpose of creating
an alarm. The soldiers, nine to fifteen,
possibly more, then jumped the wall and
started through town. There is no re-
liable evidence to support the claim that
the first shots came from town, and no
bullet marks were found on barracks. It
was Earlington's report, which was
made public several weeks, accompanied
the message.

\$100,000 Fire at Mexia, Tex.

Mexia, Tex., Dec. 18.—The business
section of the city was destroyed by
fire to-day. The destruction of the en-
tire town was threatened for a time.
The loss was \$100,000.

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BARRETT IS ELECTED

Will Act as Head of Bureau
of American Republics.

SUCCEEDS WILLIAMS C. FOX

Scope of Organization to Be Wid-
ened as Result of Action of Pan-
American Conference—Secretary
Root Deeply Interested in Work of
Department—Is Widely Known.The governing board of the Bureau of
American Republics yesterday afternoon
elected John Barrett, until yesterday
United States Minister to Colombia, di-
rector of the bureau, to succeed William C.
Fox, who is to become the American
Minister to Ecuador.Mr. Barrett's selection has been expected
for several weeks, and was made unan-
imously by the diplomatic representatives
of the Latin-American countries, who
comprise the governing board. The board
also adopted, with one or two modifica-
tions of a governing technical character, new
rules for the bureau, which were formu-
lated by the Pan-American conference
in Rio de Janeiro last summer.The selection of Mr. Barrett as head of
the Bureau of American Republics is in-
tended to mark a new era in the life of
the institution. Secretary Root is person-
ally deeply interested in the bureau, and
wishes it to expand and fulfill a far greater
mission than ever before. To this end
the Pan-American conference gave the
bureau new work and enlarged its
scope and functions in such a way as to
make of it a bureau of importance to Latin-
America.Mr. Barrett has had considerable ex-
perience in the diplomatic service, having
held posts in the Orient before going to
Colombia. There he showed skill as a
diplomat in the period of Colombian hos-
tility to the United States following the
revolution in Panama. He paved the way
for Secretary Root's visit there during
the latter's South American tour. At
present he is on the Pacific Coast, mak-
ing a number of speeches before com-
mercial bodies on trade opportunities in the
Latin-American countries.The election of Mr. Barrett was very
satisfactory to the Central and South
American representatives in the bureau.
Mr. Root nominated Mr. Barrett, and his
election was unanimous. Amendments to
the rules of the bureau, recommended in
resolutions adopted at the Pan-American
conferences at Rio last summer, were ac-
cepted.

SHIFTS AMONG DIPLOMATS

Three New Appointments and Ten
Other Changes.Transfers Are in Nature of Promo-
tions, in Line with Secretary
Root's Merit System Plans.President Roosevelt yesterday sent to
the Senate for confirmation thirteen diplo-
matic appointments, affecting ten men
now in the diplomatic service, and ap-
pointing three new officials. The trans-
fers of present officials of the service are
all in the nature of promotions, and are
in accordance with Secretary Root's plans
for running the service on the merit sys-
tem. Most of the changes affect Latin-
American missions.Thomas C. Dawson, now Minister Resi-
dent and consul general to Santo Do-
mingo, is appointed Minister to Colombia,
with doubled salary. The transfer is dis-
tinguished. Mr. Dawson has been in
Santo Domingo since April, 1904, and
during his service there has gone through
many diplomatic crises which required
delicate handling. He will be succeeded
in Santo Domingo by Fenton R. Mc-
Creery, of Michigan, now secretary of
embassy in Mexico. Williams C. Fox, of
New Jersey, is to be Minister to Ecua-
dor, supplanting Joseph W. J. Lee, of
Maryland, who goes to take the place of
Minister to Guatemala and Honduras,
made vacant by the recent transfer of
Leslie Combes to Peru.Horace G. Knowles, of Wilmington,
Del., a newspaper proprietor, is appointed
to succeed John Riddle as Minister to
Roumania and Servia. Mr. Riddle has
been transferred to St. Petersburg as am-
bassador. John Gardner Coolidge, of
Massachusetts, until recently secretary of
legation in Mexico, is to be secretary of
legation at Mexico. Montgomery Schuy-
ler, Jr., of New York, is transferred from
his present position of secretary of legation
and consul general to Roumania and
Servia, to be secretary of embassy at St.
Petersburg. Stanton Sickles, of New
York, now secretary of legation at Brus-
sels, is made secretary of legation in
Greece and Montenegro and of the diplo-
matic agency at Madrid. Robert M.
Winthrop, of Massachusetts, goes from
his present position of secretary at Ma-
drid to Rome as second secretary of the
embassy. Leonard M. Thomas, of Penn-
sylvania, leaves Rome as second secretary,
to become secretary at Madrid. Philip M.
Brown, of Massachusetts, now secretary
of legation to Guatemala and Honduras,
is transferred to be secretary and consul
general to Roumania and Servia. Nelson
O'Shaughnessy, of New York, departs
from Berlin as third secretary to become
second secretary at St. Petersburg. Robert
Woods Bliss, of New York, second
secretary at St. Petersburg, will be sec-
retary of the legation at Brussels.The supporting company is a decidedly
strong one. What would otherwise have
been a smooth performance was marred
by loud and seemingly unnecessary
prompting, which was audible all over the
house. To-morrow night "The Oath," a
play of Russian rural life, will be pre-
sented.

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THE "KREUTZER SONATA."

An Effective Rendering of a Strong
Play at the Belasco Theater.A large audience was present last night
at the Belasco Theater to witness the
presentation of Jacob Gordin's "Kreutzer
Sonata," by the celebrated Yiddish com-
pany from New York, with Mme. K.
Lipzin and David Kessler in the leading
roles.The drama partakes somewhat of the
problem play, depicting the transplanting
of the Jewish family from Russia to the
United States, and showing on the one
side the Orthodox and patriarchal char-
acter of the head of the family, and on
the other the tendency of the younger
generation to fall away from the old
doctrine. Both daughters of the house
turn aside from the straight and narrow
path, and the end is disaster. The story
is told in such an open, straightforward
manner as almost to merit the accusation
of crudeness, but the action is rapid and
consistent, and above all, it has that
vital necessity to an effective play, namely,
absorbing interest. The lines are spoken
in Yiddish, a language composed of a
mixture of Hebrew and modern German,
and is readily understood by those familiar
with the latter tongue.The central character is Raphael Fried-
lander, the old-fashioned head of the
family, which part is enacted by David
Kessler, a player who combines all of
the best requisites of the character actor
with a rare gift of emotional expression,
and he divides the honors of the per-
formance with Mme. Lipzin, who ap-
pears as Etile, the elder and first loving
daughter. She possesses a singularly
pleasing personality, and uses a subtle,
low-pitched method, expressing effectively
the most poignant forms of human em-
otion without resort to rant. Her work
of last evening justifies in all respects the

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- Pocket Knives (each in box).....25c up
- Shaving Sets.....\$5.00 and \$7.50
- Barney & Berry Ice Skates.....50c to \$5.00
- Roller Skates.....\$1.00 up
- Tool Chests (guaranteed tools).....\$5.00 to \$25.00
- Boys' Tool Chests.....\$1.00 up
- Scissors.....25c up
- Elegant Scissor Cases.....\$1.50 to \$15.00
- Nickel-plated Chafing Dishes.....\$3.00 up
- Solid Brass Five o'Clock Tea Kettles.....\$2
- Nickel-plated Five o'Clock Tea Kettles.....\$2.25
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For tickets or information, apply to A. J. POSTON, General Agent,
511 Pennsylvania Avenue Northwest.condemns which have been bestowed
upon her emotional powers.A fine character sketch was presented
by Samuel Tornberg as Ephraim Fiedler,
and Maurice Moskowitz created a good
impression by his portrayal of Gregor, as
well as his short curtain speech intro-
ducing the author, Mr. Jacob Gordin, who
was seated in one of the boxes, and who
afterward appeared upon the stage and
made an address upon matters pertaining
to the drama, which was received with
evident satisfaction.The supporting company is a decidedly
strong one. What would otherwise have
been a smooth performance was marred
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Nickerson, "Mile Hike Yella, Le Roy," "The An-
chor," "Drama," and other motion pictures.
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Cook and Madison," "Murry K. Hill," "The Balcony,
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